

REMARKS

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Endoh, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,469,444). Applicant traverses this rejection. Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 2, which is indicated as allowable. Claim 11 is amended to include the limitations of claim 12, which is also indicated as allowable. For at least these reasons, claims 1 and 11 are allowable, as are all claims depending therefrom.

Claim Objections

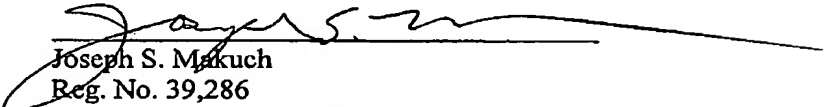
Claims 2, 3 and 12-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The limitations of claims 2 and 12 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 11, and the dependencies of claims 3 and 13-16 have been amended accordingly.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-10 are allowed.

Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,
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